

many of the Hollis Hills Jewish Center's annual conferences.

Sol serves the National Chairman of the Jewish War Heroes Fund, and has been honored as Man of the Year and received humanitarian awards by such diverse organizations as the United Jewish Appeal, Israel Bonds, Hadassah Bnai Brith, Amit Women and Shaare Zedek Hospital.

Mr. Speaker, in honor of all their great achievements, I ask all my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join with me and rise to express their appreciation for the Zims.

A TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM AVERY

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 10, 1998

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a great Philadelphian, William Avery. Bill Avery began his career as a management trainee with Crown Cork and Seal's Chicago plant in 1959, while he completed his studies at the University of Chicago. His career at Crown advanced steadily through the last four decades, as he rose from the position of Plant Manager, to Area Manufacturing Manager, Vice President of Sales for the Mid-Western Division, and Corporate Vice President. After only four years, Bill was promoted from the Vice Presidency to President and Chief Operating Officer of Crown.

Mr. Speaker, because of Bill's leadership as President, and today, as Chairman and CEO, Crown has grown exponentially. It is a global leader in the packaging industry and a wonderful corporate citizen in my home town of Philadelphia.

Bill Avery is personally active in educational and charitable organizations in the Philadelphia region. His board memberships include the YMCA, Fox Chase Cancer Center, Opportunities Industrialization Center, University of Chicago Graduate School of Business, Gwynedd Mercy College, the Connelly Foundation, PhAME, PAL, Avenue of the Arts, Inc., the Franklin Institute and the Regional Performing Arts Center. Mr. Speaker, Bill has also been honored by His Holiness Pope John Paul II with a knighthood in the Order of St. Gregory.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure that my colleagues join me in honoring a great Philadelphian and a great American, Bill Avery.

COMMENDING MONSIGNOR JOSEPH F. SEMANCIK

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 10, 1998

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my sincerest pleasure to commend an outstanding leader of Indiana's First Congressional District, Monsignor Joseph F. Semancik. On Sunday, June 28, 1998, Monsignor Semancik will be honored by the Midwest Slovak Cultural Society during their annual Slovak Day Celebration. In honor of Monsignor Semancik's announced retirement, Sunday, June 28, 1998 has been designated as "Monsignor Semancik

Day." This highly anticipated event, in its twenty-fifth year, is a cultural celebration combining the best of religious, civic, and ethnic entertainment. Awarding this high honor to Monsignor Semancik clearly shows how valuable and indispensable he has been for the residents of Northwest Indiana, the Catholic Charities of the Gary Diocese, and all the people he has touched through the service of God.

On Thursday, October 1, 1998, Monsignor Semancik will officially retire as the Director of Catholic Charities. Since he finished his master's degree in social work from Loyola University, Monsignor Semancik has spent the last thirty-eight years serving the Northwest Indiana Catholic community as one of the region's most accessible, compassionate, and dedicated spiritual leaders and social advocates. In 1958, Monsignor Semancik was directed by Bishop Andrew G. Grutka to study social work. Though spending most of his time helping others, Monsignor Semancik advanced his own learning by earning a master's degree from Loyola University in 1960 and a doctorate from the University of Chicago in 1977. Driven by his compassion, desire to help people, and education, he spearheaded the efforts that led Catholic Charities to become the great helping organization that it is today. During his long tenure as Director of Catholic Charities, his service on the Lake County Economic Opportunity Council, and the Lake County Community Development Committee, as well as his successful efforts in establishing the Indiana Catholic Conference, Monsignor Semancik has truly earned the love, respect, and admiration of everyone in Indiana's First Congressional District.

Though Monsignor Semancik, at sixty-nine years of age, will soon retire from his position with Catholic Charities, he will maintain his position as Pastor of Sacred Heart Church in East Chicago, Indiana. As well, he will continue one of his lifelong passions: writing. Currently, Monsignor Semancik is planning to write a history of the Catholic Charities in the Diocese of Gary. He also plans to continue his long-standing tradition of researching and writing about Catholic Charities directors. These works, when completed, will go along with the work that he completed on the history of Slovaks in Indiana.

Mr. Speaker, America is made a better place because of the tireless and unselfish service of her citizens. Monsignor Joseph Semancik is a man who has dedicated his entire life to helping those around him, resolutely working to aid the unfortunate and needy, and serving as an upright pillar of morality and conscience. In so doing, he has strengthened his community, Northwest Indiana, and whole of our country and society. I ask you, and my other distinguished colleagues, to join me in commending Monsignor Semancik for his lifetime of remarkable accomplishments, enduring service, and the unforgettable effect he has had on the people of his community.

PHILIPPINES CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

HON. CHARLES F. BASS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 10, 1998

Mr. BASS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Philippines Centennial Celebration. On

June 12, 1998, the Philippines will celebrate the 100th Anniversary of their independence from Spanish rule.

Nearly a century ago, a revolution in the Philippines ended more than 300 years of Spanish domination in the area and established the first democratic republic in Asia. The makings of the revolution began in the late nineteenth century with the children of the elite business class. They had been educated in Europe and exposed to ideas of independence and revolution. Among these nationalists was Jose Rizal, whose novel *Noli Me Tangere* sparked the revolt against Spain. Followers of Jose Rizal formed a secret group of reformists and radicals called the Katipunan. Eventually, in August of 1896, tensions in the Philippines had raged to the point that the Katipunan's leader, Andres Bonifacio, declared complete severance from the colonial government and the revolution began.

The Philippine-Spanish Revolution began at the same time that the Spanish-American War was being fought halfway around the world. The Americans came to the aid of the Philippines, and on June 12, 1898, Emilio Aguinaldo, a leader of the Katipunans, declared victory over the Spanish colonial government and established the Philippine Republic.

The survival of the Philippine Republic over the last 100 years has not been without difficulty. The Philippines has survived American colonialism, a four year occupation by Japan during World War II, the complete wartime destruction of Manila, Ferdinand Marcos's martial law regime, and a devastating volcano called Pinatubo.

However, even with all of these struggles the Philippines is on the road to prosperity. It has been over a decade since the People's Revolution ousted the Marcos regime and instituted the democracy that now exists. The Philippine economy has been rejuvenated and stands poised to join in the globalization of the East-West world market.

It is fitting that in the year of their centennial, the dictators are gone, the volcanoes are quiet, and the Philippines appear to have reached what Emilio Aguinaldo proclaimed nearly 100 years ago: that an independent Philippines, "today begins to have a life of its own."

WELCOMING SOUTH KOREAN PRESIDENT KIM DAE JUNG

HON. SAM GEJDENSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 10, 1998

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to welcome South Korean President Kim Dae Jung to our country, on his first state visit. I join my colleagues in wishing President Kim the best as he assumes the duties and responsibilities of his new office. Mr. Kim's victory last fall was a triumph for democracy and reform—and above all, for the people of South Korea. Since assuming office, President Kim has been trying to fulfill his campaign promises, to bring a new era to South Korea, one recognizing democracy and human rights, one that is free of corruption and embraces economic reform and the rule of law.

This is a time of great promise for South Korea. The steps the government has taken